

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 TRSE-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /082 W
-----281903Z 091672 /42

P R 281418Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8883

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION UN

USMISSION NATO

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EO 11562: NA

TAGS: PFOR CY GR TU

SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ATHENS 817 (NOTAL)

1. THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING WAS THE LEADING NEWS STORY
IN THE GREEK MEDIA TODAY (JAN 28), WITH MOST ACCOUNTS
PRESENTING THE EVENT IN A POSITIVE FASHION. THE AFTERNOON
RADIO QUOTES "GOVERNMENT CIRCLES" AS EXPRESSING THE GOG'S
"GREAT SATISFACTION" AT DEVELOPMENTS AND STATING THE GOG FAVORS
"DIRECT"NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO CYPRIOT SIDES.
HOWEVER, THE COMMUNIST PRESS WARNED AGAINST WHAT IT SAW AS
US/NATO ATTEMPTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE EFFORT TO FIND A JUST
SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WITHIN THE UN FRAMEWORK,
WHILE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA PROTESTED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE
HAD WON A DIPLOMATIC VICTORY. THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING
THE ENCOUNTER WAS DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL AS WERE THE
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SEPARATE COMMENTS BY THE TWO LEADERS FOLLOWING THEIR
SESSION TOGETHER. DENKTASH'S LETTER TO MAKARIOS
INVITING HIM TO THE MEETING WAS ALSO
REPRODUCED. REPORTS FROM STRASBOURG REPEATED GREEK FORMIN
BITSIOS' VIEW THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT
FULLY INFORMED, HE SAW THE MEETING AS "A STEP
FORWARD". SOME REPORTING TIED APPARENT TURKISH

WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE, AS EVIDENCED BY THE MEETING,
TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON
TURKISH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CYPRUS.

2. THE AFTERNOON PRESS ADDED SOME NEW INGREDIENTS.
LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA AND LEFTIST, OPPOSITION
TA NEA REPORTED FROM NICOSIA WHAT THEY PURPORTED WAS
THE "VANCE PLAN". THEY ALLEGED THIS PLAN CALLS
FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS FROM 12PC
OF THE OCCUPIED LAND; THE RETURN OF REFUGEES; THE
FORMATION OF A JOINT GREEK-TURKISH CYPRIOT ARMY; THE
TURNOVER OF THE BRITISH BASES TO THE US OR NATO;
GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL FROM CYPRUS OF FOREIGN (IE, TURKISH)
TROOPS; NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE POWERS OF A CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT; AND ABANDONMENT OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN FAVOR
OF A PRO-WESTERN ORIENTATION. IN ADDITION, TA NEA
SAID THE "VANCE PLAN" CALLED FOR THE PROHIBITION OF ANY
CLERIC BEING ELIGIBLE TO HOLD THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENCY. THE PRESS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS FROM
WASHINGTON THAT CLARK CLIFFORD WOULD HEAD THE US
TEAM BEING ASSEMBLED TO UNDERTAKE A FACT-FINDING
MISSION ON CYPRUS.

3. SAMPLE HEADLINES INCLUDE: PRO-GOVERNMENT
KATHIMERINI: "THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING A
'POSITIVE STEP' - TURKISH CONCILIATORY APPEARANCE OR A
MANEUVER IN VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES - NO
APPROXIMATION OF VIEWS CAME ABOUT ON A BASIC POINTS -
THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS CONSIDER THE 32.8 PC NEGOTIABLE."
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OPPOSITION, LIBERAL TO VIMA: "A DIALOGUE FOR THE
SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE HAS STARTED - A NEW
MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING WITH WALDHEIM WAS AGREED
UPON - MR BITSIOS SAYS 'NEW DIMENSION IN THE GREEK-
TURKISH TALKS.'" PRO-GOVT AKROPOLIS: "DENKTASH
ASKED FOR 32.8PC OF CYPRUS IN YESTERDAYS MEETING WITH
MAKARIOS - THE TOUGH BARGAINING BEGINS - NEW MEETING
IN THE PRESENCE OF WALDHEIM IN FEBRUARY." COMMUNIST
(KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI: "THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING
WAS HELD YESTERDAY - WORRIES ARE EXPRESSED OVER
DEVELOPMENTS - THE KKE-I INTERIOR ASKS FOR THE DEFINITION
OF A NATIONAL POLICY WORKED OUT BY ALL SIDES."

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COMMUNIST (KKE-EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS: "MAKARIOS:
PERSISTENCE ON THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN - THE ONLY WAY TO FACE THE AMERICAN-
NATOIST PLANS - THE GOVERNMENT UNWILLING TO MAKE THE MOST
OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE".
ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA: "TURKS CLAIM PERCENTAGE
OF 32.8PC FOR THEIR FEDERAL STATE." LEFTIST
ELEFTHEROYPEA: "THE BARGAINING BEGINS - TURKS WANT
32.8PC; USA PROPOSES 28PC."

4. FOR A CHANGE, THE PRESS ORGANS OF THE RIVAL GREEK
COMMUNIST PARTIES FOUND COMMON GROUND FOR AGREEMENT.
THE PRO-MOSCOW RIZOSPASTIS (KKE-EXTERIOR) IN ITS
EDITORIAL, CALLED "CYPRUS ISSUE AND THE GOVERNMENT,"
ATTACKED THE GOG FOR ITS LACK OF A SUCCESSFUL CYPRUS
POLICY. IT ALLEGED THAT "GOVERNMENT CIRCLES" HAD
VOICED A GOG PREFERENCE FOR "THE AMERICAN
INITIATIVE", A POSITION THE EDITORIAL FOUND IRONIC
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SINCE THE AMERICANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY OF
CYPRUS. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE A JUST SOLUTION,
THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED, AND THIS PATH, NOT THE
AMERICAN INITIATIVE, SHOULD BE PURSUED. AVGHI (KKE-
INTERIOR) IN ITS EDITORIAL, "NO TO DE-INTERNATIONALI-

ZATION," SAID THAT AMERICAN AND EEC ACTIVITY CONCERNING CYPRUS WAS DANGEROUS. IT WOULD LEAD TO THE RESTORATION OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH PERMITTED THE TURKS TO SEIZE PART OF CYPRUS. AVGHI CAUTIONED AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE THE CYPRUS ISSUE FROM THE UN FRAMEWORK, AND SIMILARLY ENDORSED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

5. WRITING IN KATHIMERINI, CYPRIOT JOURNALIST PLOUTI SERVA IN A POLITICAL COLUMN EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE MEETING. HE SEEMED BOTHERED BY THE UNORTHODOX AND SECRET WAY HE SAID THE MEETING WAS ORGANIZED AND CLAIMED THAT STRONG PRESSURE BY FORCES SEEKING AN AGREEMENT OUTSIDE THE UN LED TO THE MEETING. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE TURKS WERE ACTING TO COUNTER THE UNFAVORABLE REPORT ON THEIR BEHAVIOR IN CYPRUS BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. VRADYNI IN ITS EDITORIAL "SURPRISES" CALLED THE MEETING AN ENCOURAGING STEP. IT LAMBASTED OPPOSITION LEADERS MAVROS AND PAPANDREOU FOR FAVORING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE APPROACH (REFTEL). THE EDITORIAL REASONED THAT FOR TWO YEARS GREECE HAS SOUGHT TO GET THE US INVOLVED AND NOW THAT THE US IS RESPONDING, THE OPPOSITION SUDDENLY BEGINS PUSHING THE SOVIET PLAN.

6. ESTIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, WHICH IS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS STRONG INTEREST IN AND TIES WITH CYPRUS, WROTE IN ITS EDITORIAL "WHAT ARE THEY HIDING FROM US" THAT ALL THE MOTION CONCERNING CYPRUS IS CONFUSING AND PROBABLY PORTENDS ILL FOR GREEK INTERESTS. VICE PRESIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MONDALE'S TRIP, AKEL LEADER PAPAIOANNOU'S VISIT TO GREECE, CLERIDES TRIP TO THE US AND EUROPE, RENEWED BRITISH AND EEC INTEREST, ETC SHOULD ALL BE EXPLAINED, THE NEWSPAPER COMPLAINED. THE SAME EDITORIAL CRITICIZED THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH ENCOUNTER SAYING THAT WHILE THE GREEK SIDE GAINED NOTHING, THE TURKISH SIDE WON A DIPLOMATIC VICTORY IN THAT IT: (A) GAINED RECOGNITION BY NEGOTIATING ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY WITH THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS; (B) ESTABLISHED ITS CLAIM TO ONE-THIRD OF THE ISLAND; AND (C) THE GREEKS ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF BIZONALITY, MEANING PARTITION. KUBISCH

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